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Annual ministerial review: implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to gender equality and empowerment of women

Statement submitted by VIVAT International, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* E/2010/100.

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Statement

Empowerment of women

VIVAT International appreciates all that the United Nations officials, various ministries and civil society are doing to promote gender equality and to empower women in accordance with the Millennium Development Goals.

While we are grateful that the theme for the annual ministerial review segment this year takes up gender issues in relation to the internationally agreed goals, we would like to call your attention to a specific issue that concerns us. Goal 3 of the Millennium Development Goals about the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women does not include any reference to women's migration among the indicators[1] selected to monitor its progress.

According to the report of the Global Commission on International Migration,[2] women are almost half of the world's migrant and refugee population. For example, in 2000, the number of migrant women exceeded that of migrant men in all continents, except Africa and Asia. As mentioned by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) Deputy Director General on the occasion of International Women's Day,[3] the labour immigration policies in many countries of destination are still modelled on jobs that are traditionally male-dominated, while the jobs usually performed by women are frequently undervalued and poorly integrated into admission policies. According to the Deputy Director General, more opportunities to migrate legally would prevent a lot of women from getting trapped in irregular, exploitative and abusive situations, including human trafficking.[3]

Women and girls are often duped into leaving their home countries by traffickers through purported job offers. The victims of this duplicity are then forced to become prostitutes or to do menial labour without compensation.

Therefore, we propose that, among the monitoring indicators for Goal 3, there also be one that measures the number of women and girls who are migrating and another one that measures the real implementation of the Palermo Protocols[4] by attempting to indicate the number of those who are being trafficked globally, since women and girls are the primary victims of human trafficking and smuggling.

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[1] Available from http://unstats.un.org/unsd/mdg/Resources/Attach/Indicators/OfficialList2008.pdf.

[2] Global Commission on International Migration, *Migration in an Interconnected World: New Directions for Action* (Switzerland, 2005). Available from http://www.gcim.org/attachements/gcim-complete-report-2005.pdf.

[3] IOM News Release, 8 March 2010. Available from http://iom.fi/content/view/240/10/.

[4] See General Assembly resolution 55/25.